

28. (New) An electrolytic cell, comprising:
an anode and a cathode, the anode comprising:
a plurality of circular and non-concentric anode segments; and
an electrical source coupled to each of the anode segments; and
an anode base wherein the anode is mounted to at least one anode support
mounted on the anode base.

29. (New) The electrolytic cell of claim 28, wherein at least one of the anode segments can be repositioned relative to other anode segments.

REMARKS

This is intended as a full and complete response to the Office Action dated July 17, 2002, having a shortened statutory period for response set to expire on October 17, 2002. Please reconsider the claims pending in the application for reasons discussed below.

Claims 1-8 and 18-26 are pending in the application and stand rejected.

Claims 1-7, 18-23, 25, and 26 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by *Reed*, U.S. Patent No. 4,828,654. Applicants have amended claim 1 to include a plurality of concentric anode segments. Applicants submit that the changes made herein do not introduce new matter and are fully supported by the specification. Applicants have canceled claim 3, which recited that at least two of the plurality of anode segments are aligned with a common axis, *i.e.*, at least two of the plurality of anode segments are concentric. While *Reed* states that anode segments can be arranged in a variety of different patterns and shapes, *Reed* only shows and describes a nested arrangement of U-shaped anode segments, which are not concentric. *Reed* does not teach, show, or suggest an anode with concentric anode segments. Thus, *Reed* does not teach, show, or suggest an anode to be used with a metal deposition system containing a cathode, the anode comprising a plurality of concentric anode

segments and an electrical source coupled to each of the anode segments, as recited in amended claim 1. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-2, 5-7, and 18-20.

Applicants have rewritten claim 21 in independent form. Applicants have added new claim 29, which includes the limitations of claim 21. Applicants submit that the changes made herein do not introduce new matter and are fully supported by the specification. Claims 21 and 29 include the limitation that at least one anode segment can be repositioned relative to other anode segments. The Examiner states that the anode segments of *Reed* can be repositioned by removing the screws 38 that fasten the anode segments. Applicants submit that while the screws of *Reed* could be unfastened, it is not apparent how an anode segment of *Reed* would be repositioned, or moved relative to another anode segment, as taught by Applicants. Thus, Applicants submit that *Reed* does not teach, show, or suggest a plurality of anode segments, wherein at least one of the anode segments can be repositioned relative to other anode segments, as recited in claims 21 and 29. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of claim 21.

Applicants have amended claim 22 to include a plurality of concentric anode segments. Applicants submit that the changes made herein do not introduce new matter and are fully supported by the specification. Applicants submit that *Reed* does not teach, show, or suggest an electrolytic cell comprising an anode and a cathode, the cathode comprising a plurality of concentric anode segments, and an electrical source coupled to each of the anode segments, and an anode base wherein the anode is mounted to at least one anode support mounted on the anode base, as recited in amended claim 22. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of claims 22, 23, 25, and 26.

Applicants have added new claims 27-29. Applicants have canceled claim 4. Applicants submit that the changes made herein do not introduce new matter and are fully supported by the specification. Applicants submit that *Reed* does not teach, show, or suggest a plurality of circular and non-concentric anode segments, as recited in claims 27-29. *Reed* only shows and describes a nested arrangement of U-shaped

anode segments, which are not circular. Applicants respectfully request allowance of new claims 27-29.

Claims 8 and 24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Reed* in view of the prior art. Applicants submit that *Reed* does not include all of the limitations of claim 1, upon which claim 8 depends, as discussed above. Applicants submit that *Reed* does not include all of the limitations of claim 22, upon which claim 24 depends, as discussed above. Applicants further submit that *Reed* in combination with the Applicant's "Description of the Background Art" does not teach, show, or suggest a plurality of concentric anode segments, as recited in claims 1 and 22. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of claims 8 and 24.

Claims 1-5, 7, 18-23, 25, and 26 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by *Bhatt, et al.*, U.S. Patent No. 5,156,730. *Bhatt, et al.* only shows a sheet of rectangular anode segments that are not concentric. Thus, *Bhatt, et al.* does not teach, show, or suggest a plurality of concentric anode segments, as recited in claims 1 and 22. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1, 2, 5, 7, 18-20, 22-23, 25, and 26.

Applicants submit that *Bhatt, et al.* does not teach, show, or suggest a plurality of anode segments, wherein at least one anode segment can be repositioned relative to other anode segments, as recited in amended claim 21 and new claim 29. The Examiner states that the anode segments of *Bhatt, et al.* can be repositioned because the screws that fasten the anode segments can be removed. Applicants submit that while the screws of *Bhatt, et al.* could be unfastened, the anode segments of *Bhatt, et al.* would not be repositioned relative to other anode segments. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of claim 21 and allowance of claim 29.

Applicants submit that *Bhatt, et al.* does not teach, show, or suggest a plurality of circular and non-concentric anode segments, as recited in new claims 27-29. *Bhatt, et al.* only shows a sheet of rectangular anode segments. Applicants respectfully request allowance of new claims 27-29.

Claims 6, 8, and 24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Bhatt, et al.*, in view of the prior art. Applicants submit that *Bhatt, et al.* does not include all of the limitations of claim 1, upon which claims 6 and 8 depend,

as discussed above. Applicants submit that *Bhatt, et al.* does not include all of the limitations of claim 22, upon which claim 24 depends, as discussed above. Applicants further submit that *Bhatt, et al.* in combination with the Applicant's "Description of the Background Art" does not teach, show, or suggest a plurality of concentric anode segments, as recited in claims 1 and 22. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of claims 6, 8, and 24.

Applicants are submitting an additional reference in a Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement. Applicants submit that the reference, U.S. Patent No. 6,395,152, describes an electropolishing apparatus similar to the electroplating apparatus described in WO 99/41434 (of record). Applicants submit that U.S. Patent No. 6,395,152 shows separate electrolyte cells having cathodes, rather a cathode comprising a plurality of cathode segments that are used in a single electrolyte cell.

In conclusion, the references cited by the Examiner, neither alone nor in combination, teach, show, or suggest the method or process of the present invention. Having addressed all issues set out in the office action, applicants respectfully submit that the claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully request that the claims be allowed.

The prior art made of record is noted. However, it is believed that the secondary references are no more pertinent to the Applicants' disclosure than the primary references cited in the office action. Therefore, it is believed that a detailed discussion of the secondary references is not deemed necessary for a full and complete response to this office action. Accordingly, allowance of the claims is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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APPENDIX

1. (Amended) An anode to be used with a metal deposition system containing a cathode, the anode comprising:

a plurality of concentric anode segments; and
an electrical source coupled to each of the anode segments.

21. (Amended) [The] An anode [of claim 1] to be used with a metal deposition system containing a cathode, the anode comprising:

a plurality of anode segments; and
an electrical source coupled to each of the anode segments, wherein at least one of the anode segments can be repositioned relative to other anode segments.

22. (Amended) An electrolytic cell, comprising:

an anode and a cathode, the anode comprising:
a plurality of concentric anode segments; and
an electrical source coupled to each of the anode segments; and
an anode base wherein the anode is mounted to at least one anode support mounted on the anode base.